

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 247043

21

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-01 ISO-00 ARA-01 TRSE-00 /004 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL HAMILTON

UNCLAS STATE 247043

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 247043 ACTION ROME SAN SALVADOR
SANTO DOMINGO INFO OECD PARIS EC BRUSSELS BERN LONDON
PARIS MADRID DUBLIN BONN MEXICO NASSAU CARACAS KINGSTON
17 OCT

QUOTE

UNCLAS STATE 247043

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, ETRA, IT

SUBJECT: TAX DEDUCTABILITY OF ATTENDANCE AT FOREIGN
CONVENTIONS

REF: ROME 13939 (NOTAL)

1. VIEWS OF MFA ON PROPOSED CHANGES IN TAX DEDUCTABILITY
OF ATTENDANCE AT FOREIGN CONVENTIONS WERE CONVEYED TO
DEPT. IN MEETING WITH ITALIAN EMBASSY/WASHINGTON ON JULY
15. DEPT. PASSED AIDE-MEMOIRE WHICH ITALIANS PRESENTED ON
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PAGE 02 STATE 247043

BEHALF OF ALL EEC MEMBERS, TO WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE VIA

MCCLOSKEY LETTER TO ULLMAN SEPT. 18.

2. MCCLOSKEY LETTER (COPY OF WHICH AIR POUCHED TO ECON. COUNSELLOR ROME ON OCT 15) CONTAINED DEPT. REQUEST THAT "CHANGES...BE LIMITED TO THE IMPOSITION OF SOME OVER-ALL LIMITATION ON DEDUCTIONS FOR ATTENDANCE AT BOTH FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC CONVENTIONS. " WE INDICATED TO THE COMMITTEE THAT SOME COUNTRIES HAVE ARGUED THAT THE PROPOSED RESTRICTION ON ONLY FOREIGN CONVENTIONS VIOLATES THE OECD STANDSTILL PLEDGE, AND THAT WE VIEW RESTRICTIVE MEASURES FOR BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PURPOSES AS SELF-DEFEATING IN A FLEXIBLE EXCHANGE RATE SYSTEM.

3. FYI: TENTATIVE DECISION REACHED BY COMMITTEE (STILL SUBJECT TO FINAL VOTE SCHEDULED FOR LATE OCTOBER BEFORE BILL IS REPORTED OUT) LIMITS FOREIGN CONVENTION DEDUCTIONS TO ALLOW AN INDIVIDUAL (A) TRAVEL FOR UP TO TWO FOREIGN CONVENTIONS ANNUALLY, (B) TRAVEL DEDUCTIONS UP TO AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO REGULAR COACH AIR FARE, AND (C) DEDUCTIONS UP TO THE PER DIEM ALLOWANCE USED BY FEDERAL EMPLOYEES WHEN THEY ARE ON BUSINESS IN THE AREA CONCERNED. WHILE THIS DOES NOT MEET ALL OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN OUR LETTER TO THE COMMITTEE, IT IS BETTER THAN THE PROPOSED TOTAL BAN AND CAN BE VIEWED AS ACCOMMODATING THE GOI'S BASIC OBJECTIONS. END FYI.

5. DEPT. IS FOLLOWING ISSUE CLOSELY, AND WILL ADVISE EMBASSY OF ANY FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS. KISSINGER UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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